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Transactions on account of yellow fever at Laredo, Tex.

Correspondence with President Superior Board of Health, Mexico, relative to notification of yellow fever cases.

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1904.

Doctor LICEAGA, *Superior Board of Health, Mexico City:*

Please wire; first, if you have knowledge of yellow fever at any point in Mexico since January 1, outside of Vera Cruz; second, will you be informed immediately of any case, particularly at places where yellow fever existed last year; third, will you wire me promptly on learning of any case north of Mexico City? * * *

WYMAN.

[Translation of telegram.]

MEXICO CITY, April 26, 1904.

Dr. WALTER WYMAN,

President Committee of American Republics, Washington:

In reply to your message of to-day, no case of yellow fever has existed since January 1 in any part of Mexico except at Vera Cruz and Merida. If one case of yellow fever should occur, especially in those localities where the disease appeared last year, I should immediately be informed of it. If I have notice of any case north of the City of Mexico I will telegraph you immediately. You may be assured that you will receive immediate notice of any new case.

* * * * *

LICEAGA.

Disinfection and inspection at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, since December 1, 1903.

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1904.

RICHARDSON, *Laredo, Tex.:*

Referring your telegram April 23, concerning Nuevo Laredo, Bureau wishes full statement, as follows: First, How many houses were disinfected there since 1st of December? Second, Is any inspection being carried on to detect possible cases now? If so, describe it. Third, Has any rule been promulgated requiring all cases fever to be covered by mosquito netting till proved not to be yellow fever? Fourth, Are systematic measures in operation for destruction of mosquitoes? Fifth, Is there, in Nuevo Laredo at present time, a representative of the Superior Board of Health, or has one been there?

WYMAN.

LAREDO, TEX., April 26, 1904.

WYMAN, *Washington:*

Replying Bureau telegram April 25, concerning data from New Laredo following information from Doctor Garza: First, 742 houses disinfected December 1 to February 28. Second, Yes; paid inspectors make canvass city, reporting all sick to Garza for investigation. Third, No. Fourth, None. Fifth, Yes; Doctor Garza resident representative, Doctor Del Rio there for few days recently.

RICHARDSON.

WASHINGTON, *April 27, 1904.*DOCTOR LICEAGA, *Mexico City, Mexico:*

I have some apprehension regarding Laredo, Mexico. Disinfection there has been well done and regular inspection is going on, but fever cases are not covered with mosquito netting and systematic measures are not being enforced for destruction of mosquitoes. Can you not order use of mosquito netting immediately over all cases of fever until proven not to be yellow fever, and at same time require destruction of mosquitoes and their larvæ? These measures have been in operation in Laredo, Tex., for more than a month and will be continued, and it is desirable that the same operations should be carried on in your city which stands at our front door. The low altitude of Laredo, Mexico, and its proximity to our border make this place one of more concern than any other.

WYMAN.

[Reply.]

MEXICO, *April 29, 1904.*WYMAN, *Washington:*

In reply your message, nonimmune persons in Laredo are visited daily. If one is found with fever, from any cause whatever, he is not isolated in his house by means of flag, but is taken to the hospital, which has a ward screened with copper wire. This practice is better than that of protecting with mosquito netting. Disinfection of all houses is systematically made, with the destruction of mosquitoes and their larvæ. All these operations have been carried out since December notwithstanding that the sanitary personnel has to be increased and the precautionary measures reenforced, since it is my desire that this work should be executed with the greatest possible perfection. I may add that the passage of the river is not permitted to any sick or suspect person, and that I order disinfection of all railway coaches before crossing the frontier.

LICEAGA.

WASHINGTON, *April 27, 1904.*RICHARDSON, *Laredo, Tex.:*

Referring to your telegram, April 26, concerning Laredo, Mexico, can you not see the mayor and arrange with him so that every case of fever shall be covered with mosquito netting immediately and until proved negative, and also for the systematic destruction of mosquitoes and larvæ? Have wired Liceaga, requesting him to bring his influence to bear to this end, but believe you should put it before the mayor at once. The bureau would be very glad to have a joint cooperation between health authorities, both national and local, both sides of Rio Grande at the two Laredos. You may present this suggestion or not, as you deem advisable.

WYMAN.

LAREDO, TEX., *April 30, 1904.*

SIR: Referring to Bureau telegram of April 27, 1904, concerning New Laredo, I have the honor to report that I have taken up with the mayor of that city the matter therein detailed, and that he states he

has, since my last visit to him, required the screening of all fever cases of any character, and that at the present time there are at work 8 inspectors of water containers, who cover the city every three days, besides 20 house-to-house inspectors, who ferret out sick.

The mayor further stated that he heartily agreed with me that every effort should be bent in the two Laredos toward making them noninfectible, and destroying mosquitoes, their larvæ, and breeding places.

Respectfully,

T. F. RICHARDSON,
Passed Assistant Surgeon.

SURGEON-GENERAL, *Washington.*

Inspection of Dilley, Millett, and Cotulla.

Temporary Acting Assistant Surgeon Cock reports April 21 and 22, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Richardson, as follows:

Cotulla, Tex., April 21, 1904. The towns of Dilley, Millett, and Cotulla are free from contagious diseases. There is no evidence that either Dilley or Millett had yellow fever last fall.

The county physician at Cotulla reports that there were six well marked cases of yellow fever here last December. He also reports some twenty cases of dengue in the past thirty days. Some jaundice was present, but none exists at the present time.

The county authorities here request fumigation.

Inspection of Pearsall.

Pearsall, Tex., April 22, 1904. My investigations at this point show the sanitary conditions to be good at present. I am unable to get any history of infection in 1903 from the local physicians. Doctor Orr states that several Mexicans died under suspicious circumstances last season, but no doctor was in attendance.

The community desire mosquito work done, and the doctors promise to report at once to your office any suspicious cases.

Inspection of Rockport and vicinity and Aransas Pass.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Purnell reports as follows:

Rockport, April 22, 1904. I reached here evening before last and have inspected this town and vicinity. This is a town of about a thousand inhabitants. Doctor McMullens is the only physician, and is the health officer. He is abreast of the times and looks well after the sanitation of the place. His practice extends as far north as Skidmore, and he informs me that the country is very healthy and that he has discovered nothing that could be considered at all suspicious. It being impossible for me to leave here before to-morrow morning, I visited Aransas Pass with Doctor McMullens. The pass is about 12 miles across the bay from Rockport and is of very little importance at present except as a fishing place. Only about a hundred or two hundred people live there. The State quarantine station is situated on the bay at a point about 5 miles from the pass. It has not yet commenced operations.